

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application. Claims 6, 8-10 and 18-21 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 3-5, and 22-24 are hereby cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,611,255 (Evans). Claims 1, 2, 7, 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by the AccuCut A200 Dial-A-Blade (hereinafter "GBC"). Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 12 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0140757, to Carlson et al. (Carlson).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 14-17 is requested.

The Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Peterson for the courtesies extended him at the interview on September 20, 2005. During the interview, claim amendments, generally along the lines of those made herein, were discussed.

More specifically, the cutting plate assembly is now characterized as including a housing defining a receptacle. First and second cutting blades are mounted on a blade carrier that is movable guidingly relative to the housing within the receptacle to simultaneously change the first and second cutting blades between their operative and inactive positions. The blade carrier is guidingly movable around an axis to change the first and second cutting blades between their operative and inactive positions. The base has a flat surface on which a sheet layer can be operatively supported, which flat surface resides in a first plane. The first axis is characterized as substantially parallel to the first plane. The receptacle has a first effective diameter as viewed along the axis. There is an axially extending knob that is connected to the blade carrier and projects from the housing so that it can be grasped and pivoted around the axis to thereby change the cutting blade

assembly between the first and second states. The knob has an effective diameter, as viewed along the axis, that is substantially less than the first effective diameter. The cutting blade assembly further has a maintaining structure that cooperates between the housing and blade carrier and that releasably maintains the cutting blade assembly in two different predetermined positions relative to the housing, corresponding to the first and second states for the cutting blade assembly.

Evans discloses a food film cutter with a "turret blade" 17 that is fixed through a threaded member 20 to a cutter arm 16. By loosening the threaded member 20, a disc-shaped element, that carries the individual cutting wheels 18, can be pivoted around its axis and fixed with any of six separate, but like, cutting wheels in an operative position.

Evans does not teach or suggest any type of knob, corresponding to that claimed, that would facilitate repositioning of the turret blade 17. As a result, the disc-shaped element must be accessed and manipulated to change blades. Undesired contact with the blades may occur. Further, no structure is disclosed to consistently maintain the turret cutter blade 17 in multiple different positions in which different cutting blades might be optimally positioned for use.

It is respectfully submitted that Evans does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations absent therefrom.

GBC does not teach or suggest a corresponding blade carrier movable around an axis that is parallel to the plane of the sheet layer support surface. Instead, the corresponding axis is perpendicular to the axis orientation recited in claim 1. Still further, GBC does not teach or suggest a corresponding knob that facilitates repositioning of the blade carrier. It appears that the entire outer circumference of the housing must be

grasped, which would not be a practical operating configuration with the axis changed to correspond to that recited, i.e. parallel to the plane of a sheet being cut.

Carlson does not teach or suggest a blade carrier with multiple cutting blades that can be selectively indexed to be placed in an active position. Instead, Carlson teaches merely that different types of cutting wheels can be installed and used, only one at a time.

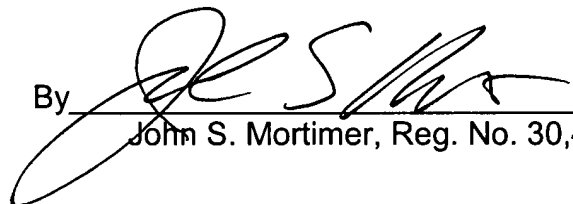
It is respectfully submitted that one would not obviously combine the three cited pieces of prior art in any logical manner to arrive at the structure recited in claim 1 without the benefit of hindsight. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed allowable.

Claims 2, 7, 11, 12 and 14-17 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over the art.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 12 and 14-17 and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By


John S. Mortimer, Reg. No. 30,407

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER
500 W. Madison St., Suite 3800
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 876-1800

Date: Sept 29, 2005